GeoConnections

2016 Invitation for Projects

For the
Innovative Adoption and Further Development of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) in Canada's Urban Environments

And

Innovative adoption and further integration of sensor data with the CGDI in Canada's Arctic

Announcement Code: GNS16IFP

ANNOUNCEMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

For FY2016-2018, GeoConnections is focusing funding towards projects that address the following themes:

- Innovative adoption and further development of CGDI in Canada's urban environments (also known as Smart Cities); and
- Innovative adoption and further integration of sensor data with the CGDI in Canada's Arctic (also known as Sensor Web or Internet of Things).

GeoConnections is soliciting interest for projects that will:

1. Increase awareness of the benefits of using geospatial data and tools to achieve goals for social, economic and environmental priorities;
2. Keep Canada at the leading edge of accessing, sharing and using geospatial information via the Internet;
3. Support the integration and use of geospatial data to support effective decision making; and
4. Coordinate the development of national policies, standards and mechanisms and support their implementation to ensure maintenance and updating of geospatial data and compatibility with global standards.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Written Expressions of Interest (EI) will be accepted from Canadian provincial/territorial/municipal government agencies, other Canadian regional government agencies that represent multiple communities, national/provincial/territorial Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), Canadian academic and research institutions, aboriginal groups, international organizations and private companies.

HOW MUCH CAN BE APPLIED FOR?

The maximum funding available from GeoConnections for projects is $650,000 over two years ($150,000 in FY2016-2017 and $500,000 in FY2017-2018). GeoConnections anticipates funding multiple Projects within this envelope. The maximum available funding for a single project is $150,000 in FY2016-2017 and $300,000 in FY2017-2018. Projects can apply for funding over one or two years. Funding is only available for projects completed before March 31, 2018.

Total federal government assistance, including the amount requested from GeoConnections, can not exceed 90 % of total eligible expenditures for the project.

Note: As per departmental policy, Natural Resources Canada and staff cannot provide in-kind contributions, or act as collaborators in a project led by non-federal recipients.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Project development consists of the following principal stages:

1. Expression of Interest by Proponent;
2. Expression of Interest evaluation and response by GeoConnections;

3. **By invitation** - proposal preparation and submission for project by Proponent;
4. Proposal evaluation and project selection by GeoConnections; and
5. **By invitation** - development of formal contribution agreement for selected projects.

Expression of Interest

GeoConnections is accepting Expressions of Interest which are no more than five pages long. See Appendix A for the Expression of Interest template. These will be evaluated against the criteria found in Appendix B and will form the basis for discussions with GeoConnections' staff and for subsequent screening.

Written Expressions of Interest must be submitted by e-mail to GeoConnections at: info@geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca.

On the basis of this evaluation and screening, **a select number of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal**. These proposals will be reviewed against specific criteria. Note that proposals should be written and must be submitted by the proponent. Full proposals are accepted by invitation only. **Invitation to submit a full proposal is not a guarantee of funding.** See section 2 of this invitation for more detail.

GeoConnections will invite the proponents of successful proposals to discuss formal contribution agreements. The resulting contribution agreements will describe the terms of the collaboration with GeoConnections and set out mutual expectations for the project.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

The announcement deadlines are as follows:

Announcement closing date	October 14, 2016
Submission of Expressions of Interest	On or before October 14, 2016

Based on the level of funding available and number of projects submitted, GeoConnections reserves the right to close this announcement before October 14, 2016. In this event, a notification will be published on the GeoConnections website.

The GeoConnections projects must be complete on or before March 31, 2018 in compliance with the terms and conditions to be articulated in the Contribution Agreement.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

info@geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca

Further information and this document can be found on:
Geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca

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1. ANNOUNCEMENT OBJECTIVES

GeoConnections is a national program with the mandate and responsibility to lead the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) through the use of standards-based technologies and operational policies. The CGDI is an on-line resource that improves the access, sharing and use of geospatial information. It helps decision makers from all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations and academia make better decisions on social, economic and environmental priorities. GeoConnections will strive to make the CGDI functions available to the broadest range of users.

Through this invitation for projects, GeoConnections is soliciting interest for projects that will:

1. Increase awareness of the benefits of using geospatial data and tools to achieve goals for social, economic and environmental priorities;
2. Keep Canada at the leading edge of accessing, sharing and using geospatial information via the Internet;
3. Support the integration and use of geospatial data to support effective decision making; and
4. Coordinate the development of national policies, standards and mechanisms and support their implementation to ensure maintenance and updating of geospatial data and compatibility with global standards.

Projects must be relevant to the GeoConnections mandate and meet the program objectives. Projects results must align with the output and/or outcome performance measures of the GeoConnections program. See Appendix C for more information.

For FY2016-2018, GeoConnections is focusing funding towards projects that address the following themes:

- Innovative adoption and further development of CGDI in Canada's urban environments (also known as Smart Cities).
- Innovative adoption and further integration of sensor data with the CGDI in Canada's Arctic (also known as Sensor Web or Internet of Things).

Sample Projects might include the following:

- further the integration of existing urban knowledge with geospatial datasets based on Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards;
- further the integration of sensor data with geospatial datasets based on interoperability standards;
- implement accessible tools that increase Canadian capacity in geospatial data processing, visualization and integration;
- identify business drivers (economic, environmental, social), develop case studies, business cases and/or evaluation of the return on investment for geospatial activities in support of business transformation; and
- develop, and make available, resources to increase awareness and understanding to support implementation and improvement of spatial data infrastructures (including governance, policy, geospatial standards, technologies and/or framework data), geospatial data, tools and information resources. This may include outreach/communication activities.

2. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Who can apply?

Expressions of Interest will be accepted from Canadian provincial/territorial/municipal government agencies, other Canadian regional government agencies that represent multiple communities, national/provincial/territorial Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), Canadian academic and research institutions, aboriginal groups, international organizations and industry.

Project development consists of the following principal stages:

1. Expression of Interest by Proponent;
2. Expression of Interest evaluation and response by GeoConnections;
3. **By invitation** - proposal preparation and submission for project by Proponent;
4. Proposal evaluation and project selection by GeoConnections; and
5. **By invitation** - development of formal contribution agreement for selected projects.

Expression of Interest

GeoConnections requires that an authorized officer, representing the initiative proponent, submit a signed and dated written Expression of Interest using their organization letterhead and also be available for a phone interview.

The Expression of Interest is required to establish a common vision and understanding early in the initiative discussions and to avoid unnecessary effort by either party. **Proponents must follow the Expression of Interest template** that is attached as Appendix A to ensure they meet the requirements of this invitation for projects.

Written Expressions of Interest must be submitted by e-mail to GeoConnections at:
info@geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca

Expression of Interest Evaluation and Response

The Expression of Interest will be reviewed by GeoConnections to determine if the proposed project has the potential to meet the requirements of this invitation for projects. Expressions of Interest will be evaluated following the evaluation criteria as set out in Appendix B of this invitation for projects. GeoConnections staff will also contact the proponent in order to review the written expression of interest.

GeoConnections will respond by e-mail to each Expression of Interest. The response will indicate if a proposal is requested.

The announcement deadlines are as follows:

Announcement closing date*	October 14, 2016
Submission of Expressions of Interest	On or before October 14, 2016

*Based on the level of funding available and number of projects submitted, GeoConnections reserves the right to close this announcement before October 14, 2016. In this event, a notification will be published on the GeoConnections website.

The GeoConnections projects must be complete on or before March 31, 2018 in compliance with the terms and conditions to be articulated in the Contribution Agreement.

Service Standards

Service Standards	GeoConnections
Responding to general enquiries	Within 2 business days 85% of the time Some program enquiries may require more time before an appropriate response can be provided.
Acknowledgement of receipt of an Expression of Interest or a Proposal received in response to this invitation for projects announcement.	Within 2 business days 85% of the time
Providing decision on initial eligibility	Within 60 business days 85% of the time A decision on initial eligibility applies to an Expression of Interest received in response to this Invitation for Projects will include an invitation to submit a Proposal if the proponent has been short-listed.
Providing funding decision	Within 40 – 120 business days 85% of the time Funding decisions are dependent on project complexity and Departmental approval processes and proponent responsiveness to requests for additional information and clarification.

Service Standards	GeoConnections
Approval and signature of agreement	Except as agreed upon with a proponent, within 60 business days of applicant receiving proposal approval and confirmation of funding 85% of the time.

Proposal Preparation and Submission

Selected proponents will be invited to submit a project proposal for consideration under this invitation for projects. Selected proponents will be provided with a proposal template. **Unsolicited proposals will not be accepted.** The intent of the project proposal is to explain the project in sufficient detail to allow GeoConnections to evaluate the proposal comprehensively. **An invitation to submit a proposal is not a guarantee of funding under this invitation for projects.**

A staff member of GeoConnections will be assigned to each initiative as the Project Authority. Proponents are responsible for preparing and submitting the proposals. However, proponents may consult GeoConnections staff for advice during this process.

Proposals may be submitted in either English or French to the GeoConnections Project Authority.

Proposals must follow the proposal template provided by GeoConnections.

The proposal must be complete. Proponents may include additional information as annexes to the proposal. No other information besides what is contained in the proposal will be used to evaluate the project.

Proposal Review and Project Selection

A team of reviewers will review and evaluate project proposals. Reviews will be based on the specific criteria that will be provided to the proponent when an invitation to submit a proposal is requested. Proposals will be reviewed as they are received and funded as they are approved. Proposals will be reviewed for completeness, feasibility, and alignment with the objectives of this invitation for projects. Proposals that pass the evaluation will be considered for funding but are not guaranteed funding.

Consideration for funding will include the following factors:
- purpose of the request in term of its relevancy to the program objectives;
- eligibility of the recipient;
- duration of the request or project;
- absolute amount in Canadian currency; and
- basis and timing of payment.

The amount of the GeoConnections contribution for approved projects will consider the following factors:
- significance of the project in contributing to program outputs and/or outcomes;
- number of similar projects already funded;
- size and scope of the project;
- risks associated with the project;
- percentage of eligible costs requested;
- contributions being made by the recipient and its partners;
- existence of more cost efficient alternatives to the project being proposed;
- limits set by the Terms and Conditions or proposal solicitation documents; and
- amount of funding available.

GeoConnections will invite the proponents of successful proposals to discuss formal agreements.

Development of a Formal Agreement

GeoConnections will work with selected proponents to discuss formal agreements. The resulting agreements will describe the terms of the collaboration with GeoConnections and set out mutual expectations such as project duration, outputs, tasks, milestone dates, human resources (organization, team member name, role/title, per diem and days of effort/person), a communications plan, and financial details.

3. BACKGROUND

GeoConnections

GeoConnections is a national program with the mandate and responsibility to lead the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) through the use of standards-based technologies and operational policies. The CGDI is an on-line resource that improves the access, sharing and use of geospatial information. It helps decision makers from all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations and academia make better decisions on social, economic and environmental priorities. GeoConnections will strive to make the CGDI functions available to the broadest range of users.

GeoConnections objectives

GeoConnections objectives include:
1. Increase awareness of the benefits of using geospatial data and tools to achieve goals for social, economic and environmental priorities;
2. Keep Canada at the leading edge of accessing, sharing and using geospatial information via the Internet;
3. Support the integration and use of geospatial data to support effective decision making; and
4. Coordinate the development of national policies, standards and mechanisms and support their implementation to ensure maintenance and updating of geospatial data and compatibility with global standards.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

GeoConnections promotes collaboration, particularly those that support project delivery through the private geomatics sector and, to a lesser extent, academia and non-government organizations. This section details roles and responsibilities of all potential collaborators on projects.

GeoConnections

GeoConnections supports projects by providing funding. GeoConnections is responsible for inviting proposals. GeoConnections will provide input and advice to proponents developing proposals. GeoConnections is responsible for evaluating proposals, developing agreements, providing advice, monitoring progress, evaluating outputs, and authorizing payments. GeoConnections shall work in collaboration with the proponent, to promote and communicate the project(s) and results.

Proponent

The proponent assembles the project proposal, leads and coordinates all project activities, and acts as a single point of contact with GeoConnections on project issues. The project proponent should have both a mandate and the resources to coordinate the project and maintain project results beyond the project's completion. Proponents must financially invest in the project through in-kind contributions. Cash contributions may be invested in addition to in-kind. Proponents are responsible for coordinating the work of any project(s) collaborators and contracts. Proponents are responsible for any contracted activities required for projects. Proponents will work collaboratively with GeoConnections to promote and communicate about the project and its results.

Collaborating Organizations

In addition to the proponent, projects must involve one or more collaborating organizations. Collaborators may be government departments, Crown corporations, academic institutions, Aboriginal organizations, non-profit organizations, or private-sector companies. Collaborating organizations must contribute in some way to the project and must demonstrate a senior level of commitment. They must also demonstrate an ongoing vested interest in the project and contribute to it financially, whether with cash, an in-kind investment, or both. The collaborator's contribution and commitment to the project should be specified in a Letter of Collaboration, and should be included with the proposal submission.

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Based on the Treasury Board Transfer Payment policy, intellectual property (IP) arising out of a project will remain the property of the recipient unless otherwise negotiated, however the Proponent hereby grants to Canada (GeoConnections) a non-exclusive, irrevocable, world-wide, free and royalty-free license in perpetuity to use or sublicense the use of any such IP for non-commercial governmental purposes.

6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Funding

GeoConnections will only fund cost-shared projects. In cost-shared projects, the proponent and its collaborators agree to contribute financially to the project either in cash or in-kind. Total federal government assistance, including the amount requested from GeoConnections, cannot exceed 90 percent of total eligible expenditures for the project.

The maximum funding available from GeoConnections for Projects is $650,000 over two years ($150,000 in FY2016-2017 and $500,000 in FY2017-2018). GeoConnections anticipates funding multiple Projects within this envelope. The maximum available funding for a single project is $150,000 in FY2016-2017 and $300,000 in FY2017-2018. Projects can apply for funding over one or two years. Funding is only available for projects completed before March 31, 2018.

The proponent shall provide a list of all federal departments participating in the proposed project and shall ensure that the total federal government assistance, including the amount requested from GeoConnections, does not exceed 90 % of total eligible expenditures for the project. Funding from another GeoConnections-funded project cannot form part of the total project costs or leveraged funds.

If any funding for a project is dependent upon another funding program, GeoConnections requires written confirmation from that program that funding has been approved.

Eligible Project Costs

Eligible costs include:
- Labour (i.e. salaries, professional fees, temporary personnel costs) and overhead costs (i.e. rent, telecommunications, administrative fees - max. 20% of labour costs) of carrying out the project, information gathering;
- Hospitality (Recipient can account for hospitality expenses as part of their cash contribution but not claim for reimbursement using GeoConnections funds);
- Sub-contracting for services;
- Travel to conduct the project;
- Communications, audio-visual equipment and facilities rentals;
- Administration of the project, including: translation, printing and binding, promotion of workshops and publication of project report; and
- GST, PST and HST related to other eligible costs.

Ineligible Project Costs

Ineligible costs include:
- Purchase of land or payment of property taxes;
- Hospitality (GeoConnections' funds cannot be used to reimburse recipients for hospitality expenses);
- Capital costs (including computers); and
- Costs associated with the development of the proposal.

A list of eligible and ineligible costs will be provided to the recipient in the proposal development instructions and template, and reiterated in the negotiation stages of the proposal, prior to acceptance of the project.

7. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

All public information documents related to a Project prepared or paid in whole or in part by GeoConnections must be made available in both official languages, when the Department of Natural Resources determines that this is required under the *Official Languages Act.* In accordance with the *Official Languages Act*, the *Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations*, and the Treasury Board's policies and directives on official languages, all services to the public will be provided in both official languages when required.

8. REPORTING AND MONITORING

Project Authorities

A GeoConnections project authority will be assigned to monitor each project. This project authority will be responsible for approving milestone payments. Milestone reports and corresponding outputs will be submitted to the project authority for evaluation.

Meetings

Orientation Meeting

Project proponents should arrange an initial orientation meeting involving all key project participants and the GeoConnections project authority.

Interim Progress-Review Meetings

Interim progress-review meetings should be scheduled to demonstrate project progress and to discuss any relevant project issues. These meetings may or may not be tied to milestones.

Milestone Reports

At the conclusion of each milestone, the project manager shall provide a brief report to the GeoConnections project authority. These reports will be required before any payments are made and shall contain at minimum, but not be limited to:

- Title page;
- Summary of the work accomplished in comparison to the work plan, including URLs of web services and operational results;
- Explanation of any problems encountered and their solution;
- Changes to the work plan for the next milestone; and
- Financial report, if requesting payment.

Reporting templates will be provided by GeoConnections.

Payment Schedule

Payment schedules will be specific to each project and will be outlined in the resulting agreement. In general, payment schedules will be based on milestones and their associated outputs. Financial statements, along with invoices, are to be submitted after materials are received.

Final Report

At the end of the project, the project team must provide a final report. The final report is required before the final payment can be made. This report should do the following:

- Describe the project outcomes compared with planned objectives;
- Self-evaluate against a defined project performance framework;
- Assess the project's success in meeting operational policy needs;
- Discuss challenges (institutional, technical and policy) encountered;
- Discuss aspects of the CGDI utilized in or during the project;
- Discuss any gaps that were identified in the CGDI;
- Provide recommendations for CGDI development and direction;
- Outline plans for possible follow-on activities and projects; and
- Describe communications activities, including public and internal (strategic) communications undertaken to date and planned.

A final reporting template will be provided by GeoConnections.

Final Presentation

At the end of the project, the project team must provide a final presentation. The final presentation is required before the final payment can be made. The presentation will summarize the results of the projects, including project performance, outputs and achieved benefits.

Promotion of Project Results

All proponents who receive funding from GeoConnections will promote project results with the appropriate audiences of stakeholders or users.

The Proponent will promote the Project results and publicly acknowledge the GeoConnections contribution by displaying the GeoConnections logo and link on media, public, and stakeholder news releases, presentations, websites, brochures and other publications or documentation describing the Project and its outcomes.

Where only text is allowed, the acknowledgement will include the following wording: "with financial support from GeoConnections, a national program initiative led by Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections and its program participants are working towards the continuation of the development of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) and to provide consolidated geographic-related information to Canadians via the Internet."

Where logos of supporting agencies are included in a product, the GeoConnections logo and Canada wordmark shall be used.

Where both text and logos are used, both the text and logo forms of acknowledgement shall be used.

Proponents will collaborate with GeoConnections when issuing, printing or publishing any publicity material to allow for possible coordinated announcements. GeoConnections will offer a link to Project new releases and articles via its website, and may otherwise promote the Project's successes in consultation with the Proponent.

9. RIGHTS OF GEOCONNECTIONS

GeoConnections reserves the right to:

- reject any or all responses to this invitation for projects;
- seek clarification and verify any or all information provided;
- enter into discussions with project proponents on any or all aspects of a proposal;
- accept any proposal in whole or in part;
- clarify/confirm intellectual property rights;
- promote and communicate the project and its results;
- cancel and/or re-issue this invitation for projects at any time; and
- administer, approve, and allocate funding based on the sole discretion of the GeoConnections program.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

All enquiries should be directed by e-mail to:

info@geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca

APPENDIX A: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TEMPLATE

Expressions of Interest may be submitted in English or French.

GeoConnections is available to answer questions during the submission process.

Please follow this template when submitting an Expression of Interest to GeoConnections for consideration.

Please provide a cover letter with your organizations letterhead, signed by an appropriate authority.

Text in italics denotes instructions. Replace with your text. Regular text identifies section headings and required text.

Title of Project	*Complete title of the proposed project*
Proponent Name	*Name of the manager and organization name*
Proponent Contact Information	*Complete contact information (name of contact, full mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address)*
Proposed Start Date of Project	*Start date of project*
Proposed End Date of Project	*End date of project*
Duration of Project	*Duration of proposed project, in months*
Project Cost	*Total project cost, in dollars*
GeoConnections Funding	*Total amount of requested GeoConnections funding, in dollars; Total amount of requested GeoConnections funding, as a percentage of the total project cost*
Abstract	*Describe (450 words or less), in plain language, the proposed project. Describe how the project aligns with and supports the business of your organization. Include project objectives and scope.*
Expected Outputs	*Describe (450 words or less) the expected output(s) of the projects. Describe how the results of the project support the objectives of this invitation for projects. Indicate how results will be promoted or utilized and the specialist and non-specialist audience impacted.*
Risks and Mitigations	*Briefly summarize (150 words or less) key risks associated with the project and identify realistic mitigation strategies that could offset risks.*

Emerging or new Users/Clients	Collaborators	Financial Contribution
Names of each emerging or new user and/or client organization	*Names of each collaborating organization*	*Corresponding financial contribution (cash or in-kind) of each organization, expressed as a percentage of the total project cost*

APPENDIX B: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EI) EVALUATION CRITERIA

EI's will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria below. Each section from the EI template will be evaluated.

There are two sections of evaluation criteria. The first section **Required Criteria** are mandatory. Proponents must pass all 7 of the required criteria in order for their Expression of Interest to be accepted for further evaluation. The second section **Ranked Criteria** uses a statement to evaluate if Expression of Interest is relevant against the criteria of the Invitation for Projects. Approved proponents will be invited to write a full project proposal.

Note: The EI evaluation will assess EI's using only the information provided in the Expression of Interest. No information from other sources will be considered during the evaluation.

1: Required Criteria

Proponents must pass all 8 of the following criteria in order for their letter of intent to be evaluated.

1: Condition of Application

Is the application for the proposed project made on the recipient's letterhead, dated and signed by an authorized officer?

2: Relevance to GeoConnections Objectives

Does the proposed project address one or more of the objectives of the Invitation for Projects?

3: Relevance to GeoConnections Theme for FY2016-2018

Does the proposed project address the GeoConnections themes for FY2016-2018?

4: Eligibility of Recipient

A) Is the proposed project recipient:
   a)   a provincial/territorial (including municipal) government agency,
   b)   other Canadian regional government agency that represent multiple communities,
   c)   national/provincial/territorial Non-Government Organization (NGO),
   d)   Canadian academic and research institution,
   e)   international organization,
   f)   private company or
   g)   industry association?

B) Does the recipient or its partners have the mandate to do this type of work/business case?

5: Stacking Provisions

Does the proposed project meet the stacking provisions of a maximum federal government assistance of 90%?

6: Eligible Costs

Are the total planned project expenditures eligible under GeoConnections terms and conditions?

7: Maximum Amount Payable

Is the amount requested from GeoConnections for this specific project no more than $150,000 in FY2016-2017 and $300,000 in FY2017-2018?

2: Ranked Criteria

1. **Alignment with the Invitation for Projects objectives**

The Expression of Interest demonstrates strong alignment between project outputs and GeoConnections program objectives and themes for 2016-2018.

2. **Collaborator profile**

The Expression of Interest clearly identifies and engages collaborators.

3. **User/client profile**

The Expression of Interest clearly identifies and engages emerging and new users/clients.

4. **Benefit to the CGDI**

The proposed projects outputs have a significant impact on and influence new stakeholders and future business direction of the CGDI.

5. **Benefit to the Proponent**

The proposed project outputs will have clear benefits to the Proponent organization and are strongly linked to their business rationale.

6. **Benefit to the collaborators**

The proposed projects outputs have a significant impact on and influence future business direction of the collaborator organizations.

7. **Benefit to the emerging and new users/clients**

The proposed projects outputs will have a significant impact on and influence future business direction of the users/clients organizations.

8. **Accessibility to CGDI specialist and non-specialist audience.**

The proposed project outputs will be broadly accessible to a CGDI specialist and non-specialist audience and the proponent is committed towards such access.

9. **Adoption**

The Expression of Interest has plans for how the proposed project outputs will be adopted and applied.

10. **Value for money**

The results of the proposed project provide excellent value for the perceived benefits.

APPENDIX C: GEOCONNECTIONS OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Objectives:
- Increase awareness of the benefits of using geospatial data and tools to achieve goals for key economic, social and environmental priorities;
- Keep Canada at the leading edge of accessing, sharing and using geospatial information over the Internet;
- Support the integration and use of geospatial data to support effective decision making; and
- Coordinate the development of national policies, standards and mechanisms and support their implementation to ensure maintenance and updating of geospatial data and compatibility with global standards.

Outcomes:
- Stakeholders recognize the need for harmonized national geospatial policies and standards.
- Canadian organizations are aware of issues, practices and standards related to geospatial information management, sharing and use.
- Canadian government organizations have the tools and resources necessary to incorporate geospatial data in the delivery of programs and activities, and policy making.
- Federal, provincial and territorial agencies, together with their national and international stakeholders, cooperate in the development and delivery of integrated and valued geomatics capacity for the Government of Canada and citizens.
- Federal, provincial and territorial government organizations transform business processes to implement consistent geospatial policies and standards to improve sharing and integration.
- Geospatial data becomes more integrated into federal government policy making.
- Canada has an effective geographic foundation, the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure, which enables the sharing and use of geospatial information about Canada's lands, peoples and natural resources to support economic, social and environmental priorities.

Outputs:
- Studies and reports, position papers, business cases;
- Best practices guides, training materials and expert advice;
- Awareness and outreach products/activities;
- Standards, tools and operational policies for sharing, using and integrating geospatial data and services;
- Strategy for federal/provincial/territorial standards and policies adoption;
- Federal government wide approaches for geospatial standards, policies and human resources;
- Strategy for international cooperation;
- Plans and Proposals for the CGDI sustainability;
- Communications strategy;
- Interoperability demonstration Projects based on open access to F/P/T government data;
- Government wide approach for data development and dissemination; and
- Incentives for producers to share data.

Related Strategies and Activities:
- Promote the benefits of integrating geospatial information in business process to governments and senior decision makers;
- Provide CGDI expertise (standards, policies and partnerships);
- Support the integration of CGDI within government operations, programs and business lines through collaborative projects;
- Promote and provide training and support about CGDI standards and policies;
- Analyze trends/issues/barriers, their solutions and benefits pertaining to geospatial data sharing and use;
- Convene organizations to identify and address common issues and goals;
- Foster the integration of geographic considerations and geospatial data to policy discussions; and
- Provide leadership in the development of new and updated policies to support geospatial information sharing and integration.

APPENDIX D: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CGDI	Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure
IP	Invitation for Projects
EI	Expression of Interest

DEFINITIONS

Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI)	The Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) helps Canadians gain new perspectives into social, economic, and environmental issues, by providing an online network of resources that improves the sharing, use and integration of information tied to geographic locations in Canada. More specifically, the CGDI is the convergence of policies, standards, technologies, and framework data necessary to harmonize all of Canada's location-based information. Consequently, the CGDI reduces barriers to using geospatial information so that Canadians can discover, access, visualize, integrate, apply and share quality location-based information and make effective decisions.
CGDI Stakeholder (specialist and non-specialist)	Any individual, institution, organization or enterprise that has a direct or indirect interest in the CGDI, and is affected by, or affects CGDI activities, outputs, and/or outcomes. This includes decision makers from all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations and academia who use geospatial information to support better decisions on social, economic and environmental priorities.
Client	Those organizations and individuals who are willing or obligated to pay for products and services, or who may influence them in one way or another. They are the "demanders" of products and services, usually with an identity and with a clear sense of the value of the product or service
Collaborator	Those organizations or individuals that contribute resources to a joint initiative, share the goals of the initiative and leverage the opportunity which is provided
Geomatics	Geomatics is the discipline of collecting, managing, analyzing, integrating, and disseminating geospatial data.
Geospatial information	Geospatial information is information concerning phenomena implicitly or explicitly associated with a location relative to the Earth. Examples include; the location of a river, crime statistics for a neighborhood, or the spread of infectious diseases.
Tools and resources	Tools and resources include data, web-based widgets, policies, best practices, guidelines and standards.

Operational policy	A policy is a statement of intended direction developed to guide present and future actions and decisions. Strategic policies provide high-level, long-term direction to organizations. Operational policies direct organizations in their day-to-day business. Operational policies address topics related to the lifecycle of geospatial data – its collection, management, dissemination and use. They relate to quality, consistency, accountability, and requirements. They include a broad range of instruments such as guidelines, directives, procedures, and manuals. For instance, an organization might make a business decision to open its data holdings to a client population, or the public, for viewing. Visual access to geospatial data holdings would become an operational policy.
Standards	Standards facilitate the development, sharing, and use of data. The more standardized the structure and content of information, the more effectively it can be accessed, exchanged and used by both humans and machines. Standards are technical documents that detail interfaces or encodings. Software developers use these documents to build open interfaces and encodings into their products and services. Standards are developed to address specific interoperability challenges. Ideally, when the standards are implemented in products or online services by two different software engineers working independently, the resulting components 'plug-and-play', that is, they work together without further debugging. For instance, an organization might make a business decision to open its data holdings to a client population, or the public, for viewing may choose to implement OGC's Web Map Service specification to enable its operational policy.
User	Those who make use of the products and services without asking for their own application. They are usually without a recognizable identity.